

SUMMARY

The San Joaquin River Management Program's (SJTMP) second annual report is being submitted in accordance with the authorizing legislation, AB 3603, Chapter 1068, signed by the Governor on September 18, 1990. A copy of the bill is included in Appendix A.

SJTMP was created to address the needs of the San Joaquin River system. Existing conditions on the San Joaquin River are less than satisfactory for many uses of the system. Continuation of the status quo will mean further deterioration of the river system and adverse impacts for all users.

The legislation charges SJTMP with the following tasks:

- Provide a forum where information can be developed and exchanged to achieve the orderly development and management of the water resources of the San Joaquin River system.
- Identify actions which can be taken to benefit legitimate uses of the system.
- Develop compatible solutions to water supply, water quality, flood protection, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and recreation needs.

The legislation identified specific tasks to be accomplished in developing the management program. Those tasks are listed below.

- Identify ongoing studies concerning the San Joaquin River, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's San Joaquin River Basin Resource Management Initiative and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies on the San Joaquin River Basin.
- Identify and describe issues and problems that are affecting the river system.
- Prepare a program scope consistent with the stated purpose of the management program.
- Establish a series of priority actions with specified time frames, estimated costs and benefits, and proposed funding sources.
- Propose local, State, and federal actions to solve some of the problems and conflicts on the river system.

Accomplishments to date include providing a forum for the development of ideas and the exchange of information, identifying ongoing studies concerning the San Joaquin River, identifying and describing issues and problems, and recommending actions.

Time and funding constraints have slowed the activities of some SJTMP subcommittees. Efforts have been made to correct this situation but to date have been unsuccessful.

Input from all subcommittees is essential to the success of SJRMP. Input is needed in its own right as well as in response to actions recommended by other subcommittees. Progress of SJRMP is also complicated by the fact that management strategies are developing at different rates and with different degrees of detail.

Another problem encountered by SJRMP involves the institutional difficulty of actually implementing a project with multiple objectives (and, thus, multi-agency responsibility). Currently there appears to be no institutional process to successfully implement this type of project. Establishing a special district or authority having the responsibility to implement projects such as this is something that SJRMP will explore.

SJRMP will further develop and expand the list of management strategies identified by the subcommittees that will benefit the San Joaquin River system. Potential benefits, potential conflicts and resolutions, estimated costs and possible funding sources, required legislation, and required environmental documentation will be identified for each of the proposed management strategies. SJRMP will continue to operate on a consensus basis and to emphasize compatibility among the diverse river interests and within the proposed management strategies.

In addition, SJRMP will encourage implementation of management strategies whenever possible.